

28 February 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council
SUBJECT : Contingency Memos

1. You asked for a few additional examples that are sufficiently probable to justify this new format:
 - Economic collapse in Romania leads to internal disorder and removal of Ceaucescu; a Soviet-sponsored successor regime re-instates Romania as a full military partner in the Warsaw Pact.
 - The Soviets test a space-based laser prototype in 1983.
 - A combination of astute Soviet political maneuvering, Pakistani disillusionment with its US relationship, and refugee pressures leads to a Pak-Soviet accommodation over Afghanistan on terms not to US liking.
 - Arab oil producers begin dipping into reserves and cutting security and economic assistance funds for third countries including Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Jordan, Pakistan, and Lebanon.
 - The Soviets prepare to deploy cruise or ballistic-missile submarines in the Caribbean, possibly based in Grenada, as an "analogous step" to US deployment in Europe of Pershing II missiles.
2. In each memo, we would identify the trend -- or note the possibility of the event -- then forecast its likely course and describe the implications.
3. To keep these contingency memos from becoming too academic, we would peg them to current intelligence. Note the first paragraph of the "Maronite State" memo, which points out that this old idea is once again being raised with US officials.
4. Thus we would not want too large an inventory of potential contingency memos. We would respond to new trends and possible events as they arise.
5. Publication of an average two contingency memos per month strikes me as about right.


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